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ABSTRACT

An English unit built on a theme of current interest to high school students--such as cars, motorcycles, and snowmobiles--may involve several classroom activities: (1) a general discussion prompted by relevant newspaper and magazine articles, films, popular songs, and poems; (2) individual and group projects--reports or panel discussions--derived from books, magazines, or automobile association booklets; (3) class participation in film viewing and article or poem reading; and (4) individual reading of pertinent fiction. (A list of suggested materials concerning motor vehicles includes articles, non-fiction, poems and songs, fiction, and films.) (JM)

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On The Move

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With the assistance of the photocopier and the film projector, teachers of both four- and five-year classes can present relevant and varied materials on themes of current interest to young people. Themes related to cars, motorcycles, and snowmobiles, for instance, strike an immediate and responsive chord with Grade 10 and 11 classes.

STEP 1 The teacher might begin with a general discussion based on a newspaper or magazine article. If the article warrants more than cursory attention, it should be reproduced so that each student could have his own copy.

Two particularly relevant articles for this purpose are "Chrome Mentality" by Edmond Boyd (*Toronto Globe & Mail*, December 4, 1968) and "The Cycle Rebels" by Christine Doyle (*Toronto Globe & Mail*, February 26, 1969). Or the teacher might begin with a discussion of automobile safety, operation, regulations, stock-car racing or perhaps with the showing of a film, such as *Every Second Car* (NFB, 28 minutes, B/W), which develops the thesis that every second car on the road today will sooner or later injure or kill someone.

The introductory discussion or film viewing should raise several questions: If cars are so dangerous, why haven't the manufacturers introduced more extensive safety features? Why don't motorists buckle up their safety belts? Why do some people constantly drive at or over the posted speed limits? Why has the car become a status symbol? Students should attempt to answer these and related questions as the unit proceeds.

The following poems and songs may provide some answers: "The Man and the Machine" by E. J. Pratt, "Klaxon" by James Reaney, "Buick" by Karl Shapiro, and "From a Buick 6" by Bob Dylan. (Perhaps a student will have the recording for the last item.)

STEP 2 Individual and group projects could be undertaken during the early stages of the unit. For this purpose the teacher should have a variety of materials available—perhaps a class set of Ralph Nader's *Unsafe at Any Speed*, several copies (say 5 or 6) of the non-fiction titles

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listed below, recent and back copies of Popular Mechanics, Hot Rod Magazines and Consumer Reports, etc.

Some groups will need specific assignments. For instance, a student might prepare a report based on Ralph Nader's *Unsafe at Any Speed:*

(a) Four reasons why the original Corvair was unsafe—complete with a diagram to explain each reason.
(b) The seat belt—why it is needed, what it is designed to do, why it has taken so long to become standard equipment.

Some students need direction only to find materials—a reminder to consult Automobile Associations (OML), Provincial Department of Transport, etc. Topics such as air pollution, highway congestion, city core traffic, and automobile design might be more suitable for groups and panel discussions than for individual reports.

STEP 3 While students are preparing their reports—for either oral or written presentation—the teacher might continue the unit with pertinent articles, poems, or films. A particularly enjoyable and informative film is the McGraw-Hill two reeler entitled *Automobiles: The Great Love Affair.* (A study guide is available from McGraw-Hill Text-Films, 330 Progress Avenue, Scarborough.)

STEP 4 As students complete their reports, give them their choice of the titles from the fiction list. (Several copies of each title should be available.) These students might read in class until all members of the class have finished their reports.

MATERIALS

ARTICLES

"Chrome Mentality": Edmond Boyd (*Globe & Mail*, December 4, 1968)
"Are Motorcycles Dangerous": student (from *Techniques of Good Writing*, by Margaret Ford, Book Society of Canada)
"The Cycle Rebels": Christine Doyle (*Globe & Mail*, February 26, 1969)
"Car Accident Victims": John N. Laxtion
Consumer Reports
Film Guide for "Automobiles: The Great Love Affair" (McGraw-Hill Text-Films)
"Why Do People Fight?": D. A. Morin *(Monday Morning)* (Film reviews of "Satan's Choice" and "Overture")
"The Call of the Open Road": John Keats (Book Society of Canada, one of the Searchlight series)
"The Kandy-Kolored Tangerine-Flake Streamline Baby": Tom Wolfe (in *Cross Currents*, ed. C. J. Porter—Macmillan)

NON-FICTION

Unsafe at Any Speed: Ralph Nader (Pocket Book Special)	$1.25
Building and Racing the Hot Rod (Signet)	.95
Hot Rod Chassis Construction (Signet)	.95
Hot Rod Engines (Signet)	.95
A Teen-ager's First Car: Felsen (Bantam)	.50
The Racing Driver: Jenkinson (Batsford)	1.10
Challenger: Mickey Thompson's Own Story (Signet)	.50
The Racing Car Pocketbook: Jenkinson (Batsford)	.75
Stock Car Racing: Grand National Competition: Robert Jackson 1968 (Oxford)	3.00
The Hidden Persuaders: Vance Packard (Pocket Book)	.75
Dragging and Driving: MacPherson (Scholastic)	.50
Grand Prix Racing: Williams (picture history) (Scholastic)	.65
The Automobile Makers: Sobel and Sarnoff (Longmans)	5.00

POEMS AND SONGS

Cars:	"The Man and the Machine": E. J. Pratt
	"Auto Wreck": Karl Shapiro
	"Buick": Karl Shapiro
	"From a Buick 6": Bob Dylan
	"Nathan La Franeer": recorded by Joni Mitchell
	"Klaxon": James Reaney
Motorcycles:	"Fifteen": William Stafford
	"Saturday Night": Alden A. Nowlan
	"Black Jackets": Thom Gunn
Snowmobiles:	"Thoughts on a Winter's Walk in the Woods": C. A. Conway

FICTION

Rag Top: Felsen (Bantam)	.50
Street Rod: Felsen (Bantam)	.50
Road Rocket: Felsen (Bantam)	.50
Hot Rod: Felsen (Bantam)	.50
Drag Strip: Gault (Berkley)	.50
Speedway Challenge: Gault (Berkley)	.50
The Red Car: Don Stanford (Scholastic)	.50
Gus Wilson's Model Garage: Martin Bunn (Berkley)	.45
The Roaring Road: Gene Olson (Dell)	.50
Hot Rod Rodeo: Bowen (Scholastic)	.50
The Red, Red Roadster: Olson (Scholastic)	.50

Two-Wheeled Thunder: Gault (Scholastic)	.55
Black Tiger at Indianapolis: O'Connor (Scholastic)	.50
When Engines Roar: Nolan (Bantam)	.50
High Gear: Jones (Bantam)	.50

FILMS

Every Second Car (NFB, 28 min., B/W, 1964)

Every second car on the road today will cause an injury-producing accident during its lifetime. But, according to experts on safety promotion interviewed in this film, the driver is less to blame than is commonly supposed. Some excellent slow-motion shots of experimental crashes and suggestions on how automobile design could reduce traffic casualties will stimulate class discussion.

The Cars in Your Life (NFB, 29 min., B/W, 1960)

A light, humorous film about the motor car and the great North American itch for a place on the road. Slow motion and pop-on-pop-off touches heighten interest.

Automania 2000 (Contemporary—McGraw-Hill, 11 min., col., 1964)

An amusing animated vision of an astonishing state of traffic congestion throughout the world by the end of the century.

What on Earth? (NFB, 10 min., col., 1966)

An animated film, it shows life on earth as one long unending conga-line of cars which, of course, the Martian visitors judge to be the true inhabitants of earth, while we seem to be parasites infecting the autos. The automobile has inherited the earth.

Automobiles: The Great Love Affair (McGraw-Hill, 54 min., B/W—2 reels, each of which may be used separately, produced by CBC News)

An excellent film with witty and provocative narrative. It explores the impact of the automobile on the economy, habits, tastes, and patterns of modern Americans. The automobile fills a need—transportation, status, speed, individuality, conformity. It is, indeed, an inherent part of the North American way of life.

The Median Is the Mess Age (North York Board of Education student film, 8 min., B/W, 1967)

A spoof on our super expressways—delightful and provocative.

'67 Grand Prix (29 min., col.) and
'66 Players World of Racing (29 min., col.)

Two of a series of films on Grand Prix Racing in Canada distributed as a public service by Imperial Tobacco Company, 810 York Mills Road, Telephone 447-2471.

Satan's Choice (NFB, 28 min., B/W, 1965)

A rare, although perhaps dated, "in" view of a motorcycle club in Toronto (now located elsewhere, with most of its members in jail). The special ethics and views of life expressed in the film are not necessarily those of all motorcycle clubs.

Ride for Your Life (NFB, 10 min., col., 1966)

About Mike Duff, Canadian motorcycle racer, and the sport that almost killed him. After a near-fatal crash in Japan and extensive surgery and therapy, he returned to racing and two victories in Canada, his goal a world championship.

60 Cycles (NFB, 17 min., col., 1965)

The Eleventh St. Laurent Long-Distance Bicycle Race, with participants from thirteen countries, and with 1500 miles of Quebec's Gaspe countryside to cover in twelve days. Some telephoto shots with zooming in and out, quick cuts, panning. Camera distance and angle, the sound track, the editing—all are worthy of discussion.

Gentlemen, Start Your Engines (23 min., col., 1964)

Distributed as a public service for Imperial Oil Limited by Association Industrial Film, 135 Peter Street, Toronto. Telephone 362-2501.

The cameraman joins the crowd at the famous Indianapolis 500. Film stresses the contribution that car racing has made to the development of the modern automobile and safe driving.

Anatomy Of An Accident (27 min., col., 1961)

Distributed as a public service by Bell Canada, Telephone 368-3911.

Tells the story of a fatal car accident involving a Bell Telephone man and his family.